

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY Venezuela

DATE DISTR. 4 March 1949

**SUBJECT Sabotage of Power Lines in the Maracaibo Area**

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. Since the Accion Democratica work stoppage, 17 January 1949\* in the Lake Maracaibo oil fields, an incident of obvious sabotage which apparently took place during the strike has been discovered. [REDACTED] found that a section of the high tension lines conveying power from the Punta Gorda power plant to the Creole Oil Corporation installations at Lagunillas had been damaged. This section of the lines was about one-half kilometer off the Tia Juana-Lagunillas highway in a well-secluded and heavily foliated section. Six of the posts supporting high tension wires had been chopped and reduced in diameter from ten to three inches, leaving just enough wood to keep the posts from collapsing. The cut sections apparently had been soaked with an inflammable liquid and lighted. The saboteur presumably fled in order to escape before the lines burnt down and he was discovered. The fires burned out or were blown out on all six posts, although two of the posts were burnt through and were found dangling from the wires. The lines remained unimpaired and service was uninterrupted.
2. Company foremen and officials estimated that the act took place about 17 January. No clue has been found identifying the perpetrator. The incident caused the National Guard to conduct a sporadic surveillance along the route of the power lines.

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